

Amendments to the Claims

1. (Currently amended) A process for making a stable colloid for gene transfer comprising
_____ providing a colloid comprising an aqueous phase having suspended
therein a DNA complex consisting essentially of DNA complexed with cationic
lipids or cationic polymers and which has a cationic surface potential, and
_____ converting the cationic surface potential of the DNA complex to a
neutral or net anionic surface potential by reacting the cationic lipids or the
cationic polymers in the DNA complex with a reagent selected from the group
consisting of citraconic anhydride and N-hydroxysuccinimide acetate to reduce,
remove or reverse said cationic surface potential.
~~said-stable colloid comprising a complex which comprises DNA sequestered~~
~~therein and which has a neutral or net anionic surface potential, said process~~
~~comprising modifying a precursor colloid comprising a complex which has a~~
~~cationic surface potential and which comprises DNA and cationic lipids or~~
~~cationic polymers, said DNA being sequestered within said complex, by~~
~~reacting a reagent with the cationic lipids or cationic polymers present in said~~
~~complex to reduce, remove or reverse said cationic surface potential, said~~
~~reagent selected from the group consisting of citraconic anhydride and N-~~
~~hydroxysuccinimide acetate.~~

Claims 2 to 6 (Canceled)

7. (Currently amended) The process of claim 1, wherein said cationic lipids or cationic polymers is selected from the group consisting of linear polyamines, branched polyamines and polyamines comprising guanidinium groups.

Claims 8 to 10 (Canceled)

11. (Currently amended) The process of claim 1, wherein said complex further comprises a targeting ligand covalently attached to a said cationic lipids or cationic polymers.

Claims 12 and 13 (Canceled)

14. (Currently amended) The process of claim 1, wherein said reagent is only reacted with cationic head groups of said cationic lipids or cationic polymers on the surface of said complex.
15. (Currently amended) The process of claim 1, wherein said reagent is reacted with cationic head groups of said cationic lipids or cationic polymers on the surface of and in the interior of said complex.

Claims 16 and 17 (Canceled)

18. (Previously presented) A stable colloid prepared by the process of Claim 1.
19. (Previously presented) A method for gene therapy by delivering in vivo an exogenous therapeutic DNA sequence to a patient in need thereof comprising administering to said patient an effective amount of the stable colloid of claim 18.
20. (Currently amended) The colloid of Claim 18, wherein said cationic lipids or

cationic polymers is selected from the group consisting of linear polyamines, branched polyamines and polyamines comprising guanidinium groups.

21. (Currently amended) The colloid of Claim 18, wherein said complex further comprises a targeting ligand covalently attached to a said cationic lipids or cationic polymers.
22. (Currently amended) The colloid of Claim 18, wherein said reagent is only reacted with cationic head groups of said cationic lipids or cationic polymers on the surface of said complex.
23. (Currently amended) The colloid of Claim 18, wherein said reagent is reacted with cationic head groups of said cationic lipids or cationic polymers on the surface of and in the interior of said complex.
24. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 19, wherein said cationic lipids or cationic polymers is selected from the group consisting of linear polyamines, branched polyamines and polyamines comprising guanidinium groups.
25. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 19, wherein said complex further comprises a targeting ligand covalently attached to a said cationic lipids or cationic polymers.
26. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 19, wherein said reagent is only reacted with cationic head groups of said cationic lipids or cationic polymers on the surface of said complex.
27. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 19, wherein said reagent is reacted

with cationic head groups of said cationic lipids or cationic polymers on the surface of and in the interior of said complex.

28. (Currently amended) The colloid of Claim 18, wherein said cationic lipids contains hydrophobic moieties which are based on one or more acyl chains of various lengths.
29. (Currently amended) The colloid of Claim 18, wherein said cationic lipids contains a hydrophobic moiety which is a myristyl chain or a palmityl chain.
30. (Previously presented) The colloid of Claim 18, wherein said complex comprises further a targeting ligand which is selected from the group consisting of folate and tumor homing peptides.
31. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 19, wherein said cationic lipids contains hydrophobic moieties which are based on one or more acyl chains of various lengths.
32. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 19, wherein said complex comprises further a targeting ligand which is selected from the group consisting of folate and tumor homing peptides.